

# York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

## Finding Aid - Latin American Working Group (LAWG) fonds (F0463)

---

Generated by Access to Memory (AtoM) 2.4.1 Printed: June 13, 2019

Language of description: English

York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

305 Scott Library, 4700 Keele Street, York University

Toronto

Ontario

M3J 1P3

Telephone: 416-736-5442

Fax: 416-650-8039

Email: [archives@yorku.ca](mailto:archives@yorku.ca)

<http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/ArchivesSpecialCollections/index.htm>

<https://atom.library.yorku.ca//index.php/latin-american-working-group-lawg-fonds>

# Latin American Working Group (LAWG) fonds

---

## Table of contents

---

Summary information .....	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch .....	3
Scope and content .....	4
Notes .....	4
Access points .....	5

## Summary information

---

**Repository:** York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

**Title:** Latin American Working Group (LAWG) fonds

**ID:** F0463

**Date:** [ca. 1964]-1994 (date of creation)

**Language:** English

**Language:** Spanish

**Physical description:** ca. 7.1 m of textual records and other material  
ca. 203 audio cassettes  
ca. 24 audio reels  
ca. 13 video cassettes  
ca. 4800 slides

---

## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

---

### Note

The Latin American Working Group (LAWG) was an independent, grassroots organization in Toronto, Canada, which carried out Canadian-Latin American solidarity activities from 1966-1997. Formed in response to the military coup and invasion of the Dominican Republic by the United States of America in 1965, LAWG's mission was to educate Canadians, develop solidarity links between Canadians and the peoples of Latin America, and advocate for an independent Canadian foreign policy. LAWG carried out activist research regarding the roles played by Canadian corporations and government aid policies in Latin America by working closely with union, churches, non-governmental organizations and academics in the North and the South hemispheres committed to human rights and social justice. It contributed to the creation and work of the Taskforce on Churches and Corporate Responsibility, the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America (ICCHRLA), the Central American Policy Alternatives (CAPA), the Roundtable for Peace, Mission for Peace, Canada-Chile Solidarity, Tools for Peace, Linking Ontario and Central American in Labour Solidarity (LOCALS), Common Frontiers, and other initiatives aimed at changing Canadian foreign policy. LAWG worked with several Canadian trade union humanity and social justice funds to facilitate north-south educational tours involving workers, teachers, Christians, health workers, and those from other sectors, as a way of deepening Canadians' understanding of, and mutual solidarity with, others living in this hemisphere. LAWG worked to provide insights into the reality of Latin America that it felt was not being provided by either the Canadian government nor mainstream media. Its first-hand information and primary research was published in its newsletter "the LAWG letter," "the Central America update," "LAWG labour report," and several books critically examining the role of Canadian corporations such as Falconbridge and INCO in Latin America. Over its 30 year existence, LAWG played a significant role in influencing Canadian public opinion, and that of churches, trade

unions, and government policy-makers in relationship to Latin America. There is no connection between this group and the group with the same name in the United States.

---

## Scope and content

---

The fonds consists of meeting minutes, quarterly and annual reports, financial records, fundraising files, correspondence files (including with social activists in Canada and in other countries), documentation of advocacy work (including with trade unions, churches and religious groups, and other non-government organizations (NGOs)), oral histories and interviews, newsletters, slide presentations, press releases, brochures, research material such as news clippings and reports (including research on Canadian corporations), publications and reference library materials related to the activities of the Latin American Working Group.

---

## Notes

---

### Title notes

### Immediate source of acquisition

Deposited by LAWG in 2004 and donated in 2005.

### Restrictions on access

Access is open.

### Related material

See also the records of the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC), (F38). The RCMP files relating to LAWG have been transferred to Library and Archives Canada.

### Accruals

The fonds comprises the following accessions: 2004-016. No further accruals are expected.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Final

---

## Access points

---

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Sound recording (documentary form)
- Moving images (documentary form)

---

## Collection holdings

---